



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Group Art Unit 1724

1724
#6
m/s/12

In re

Patent Application of

Michael R. Ekholm, et. al.

Application No. 09/925,795

Confirmation No. 4218

Filed: August 9, 2001

Examiner: Christopher Upton

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I, Tijuana M. Jackson, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date of my signature.

Tijuana M. Jackson
Signature

10-24-2002
Date of Signature

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RECEIVED

OCT 31 2002

TC 1700

Sir:

This paper is in response to the Office Action dated September 24, 2002. Claims 1 – 46 are pending in the application.

The Examiner has indicated that the application encompasses four different species of inventive subject matter as shown in figures 1 and 2, figures 3 and 4, figures 5 and 6, and figure 7, respectively. The Examiner indicated that an election of a distinct species is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121.

Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the telephone conference with Examiner Upton to clarify the election of species requirement. Pursuant to that conversation, Applicant suggests grouping the claims as follows: include claims 1 – 11, 15 – 19, and 22 – 46 in Claim Group I, and include claims 12 – 14, and claims 20 – 21 in Claim Group II. If the Examiner agrees with

the Applicant's regrouping of the claims, Applicant further responds to the election of species requirement by hereby electing Claim Group I with traverse.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests consideration of claims 1 – 11, 15 – 19, and 22 – 46 on the merits. Applicant is available for further telephone conferences.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas S. Reynolds II", followed by a small, stylized symbol that resembles a hash or a cross.

Thomas S. Reynolds II
Reg. No. 45,262

Docket No.: 092259-9016

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